

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**Norfolk, Virginia** – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Mario Anthony Tynes, age 24, of Newport News, Virginia was sentenced yesterday to 219 months imprisonment for his conviction on gun and drug trafficking crimes.

Tynes was indicted in a 6-count indictment on March 7, 2002, charging four counts of distribution of crack, one count of using, carrying and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He pleaded guilty on May 20, 2002, to distributing crack and using a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

On November 28, 2001, and December 3, 2001, Tynes sold 4.844 grams and 13.546 grams crack to a Newport News cooperating source. On January 15 and January 26, 2002, Tynes distributed 11.269 and 11.8 grams of crack to an undercover Newport News police officer. The total amount of crack distributed on those four occasions was 41.959 grams.

“Drug trafficking and its related violence are a blight on our society. This defendant has the next 18 years of his life behind bars to learn that guns and drugs don’t mix”, said Mr. McNulty.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Janet Reincke.